

# Requirements for Irrigation Water Management Incentive

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) FY2008

**Purpose:** To encourage proper irrigation scheduling using appropriate tools. Irrigation water management is applying water according to crop needs in an amount that can be stored in the plant root zone of the soil. The site must be equipped with an irrigation system adapted for site conditions (soil, slope, crop grown, climate, water quantity and quality, air quality, etc.) and must be available and capable of efficiently applying water to meet the intended purpose(s). Measurement and determination of flow rate is a critical component of irrigation water management and must be a part of all irrigation water management purposes.

The irrigator or decision-maker must possess the knowledge, skills, and capabilities of management coupled with a properly designed, efficient and functioning irrigation system to reasonably achieve the purposes of irrigation water management.

**Eligible Land:** Crop land.

### **Maximum Payment:**

- Measurement of irrigation water applications, rainfall during the growing season, and periodic measurement of soil moisture. This along with crop water use (ET) will be used for decision making to schedule irrigation water application in accordance with 449. Documentation/records of these items will be provided by participant to ensure that IWM is being practiced. Maximum of \$5.00 per acre.
- Real Time measurement of irrigation water applications, rainfall during the growing season, and real time measurement of soil moisture through the use of soil moisture sensors that can be monitored with dataloggers in order to read and record real time readings. This along with crop water use (ET) will be used for decision making to schedule irrigation water application in accordance with 449. Documentation/records of these items will be provided to ensure that IWM is being practiced. Maximum of \$10.00 per acre.
- Flow meter with or without straightening vains per irrigation system to measure water used. Maximum of \$650.00 per system.

### **Producer requirements for payment:**

- Attend appropriate NRCS designated training regarding irrigation water management.
- Develop an "Irrigation Water Management Plan".
- Provide a completed "Irrigation Scheduling Worksheet" to the NRCS field office documenting the following:
  - The volume of water needed for each irrigation based on plant available water-holding capacity of the soil for the crop rooting depth, management allowed soil water depletion, irrigation efficiency and water table contribution.
  - The irrigation frequency based on the volume of irrigation water needed and/or available to the crop, the rate of crop evapotranspiration, and effective precipitation.
  - The application rate based on the volume of water to be applied, the frequency of irrigation applications, soil infiltration and permeability characteristics, and the capacity of the irrigation system.